

Message Text

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65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /060 W

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R 101805Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7701

INFO FAA WASHDC

FAA BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: SGAC TOP POST SOON TO BE FILLED

1. MAURICE GRIMAUD RETIRED IN MID-DECEMBER THOUGH FORMALLY HE REMAINS SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION PENDING APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR. SEARCH HAS BEEN GOING ON IN MEANTIME FOR A SUCCESSOR AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MICHEL AURILLAC, DIRECTEUR DE CABINET OF INTERIOR MINISTER PONIATOWSKI, MAY NOW BE SLATED FOR THE JOB.

2. FOR AWHILE THE GOF CONSIDERED NOT REPLACING GRIMAUD AND REORGANIZING THE SGAC, ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH IS A POLITICAL APPOINTMENT AND INSTEAD HAVING THE CIVAIR ADMINISTRATION HEADED BY A TECHNICIAN WITH THE TITLE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL. SOME MENTION OF THIS POSSIBILITY CREPT INTO THE PRESS AND IT WAS SPECULATED THAT CLAUDE ABRAHAM, CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORT AT SGAC, MIGHT BE PROMOTED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL POST. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT OOPOSITION TO ABRAHAM DEVELOPED ON GROUNDS THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL POSITION, IF CREATED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD BE FILLED BY INGENIEUR DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

(CIVAIR ENGINEER) WHEREAS ABRAHAM IS INGENIEUR DES PONTS ET CHAUSSEES (HIGHWAY ENGINEER). APPARENTLY ABRAHAM, WHO HAS NOT COMPLETELY SHAKEN HIS PRIMA DONNA WAYS, IS ANGERED THAT ANOTHER RAPID PROMOTION SEEMS NOW CLOSED TO HIM.

3. COMMENT: SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, WHO IN FRANCE IS EQUIVALENT OF BOTH CAB CHAIRMAN AND FAA ADMINISTRATOR, IS SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT CONCERNED WITH CIVAIR QUESTIONS AND REPORTS DIRECTLY TO MINISTER (STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION). GRIAUD TENDED NOT TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH TECHNICAL DETAILS OF CIVAIR ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY, DELEGATING MOST SUCH RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS SUBORDINATES. NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, IF IT IS CONFIRMED GOF DOES INDEED INTEND TO RETAIN THE POSITION, WILL INTRODUCE NEW WORK HABITS TO SGAC AND PERHAPS EVEN MAKE SOME CHANGES IN TOP PERSONNEL, WHICH COULD AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH THIS ALL-IMPORTANT ESTABLISHMENT ON THE FRENCH CIVAIR SCENE.

4. FOREGOING PRELIMINARY REPORT FILED IN VIEW INDICATION FROM FAA REP PIERRE OF SPECIFIC INTEREST THIS QUESTION IN FAA WASHINGTON.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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